

**Subpart F—Child Support and Dependency**

**§ 222.50 When child dependency determinations are made.**

(a) *Dependency determination.* One of the requirements for a child's annuity or for increasing an employee or spouse annuity under the social security overall minimum provision on the basis of the presence of a child in the family group is that the child be dependent upon the employee. The dependency requirements and the time when they must be met are explained in §§ 222.51 through 222.57.

(b) *Related determinations.* To prove a child's dependency, an applicant may be asked to show that at a specific time the child lived with the employee, that the child received contributions for his or her support from the employee, or that the employee provided at least one-half of the child's support. The terms "living with", "contributing to support", and "one-half support" are defined in §§ 222.58, 222.42, and 222.43. These determinations are required when—

(1) A natural child or legally adopted child of the employee is adopted by someone else; or

(2) The child claimant is the stepchild, grandchild, or equitably adopted child of the employee.

**§ 222.51 When a natural child is dependent.**

The employee's natural child, as defined in § 222.32, is considered to be dependent upon the employee. However, if the child is legally adopted by someone else during the employee's lifetime and, after the adoption, a child's annuity or other annuity or annuity increase is applied for on the basis of the employee's earnings record and the relationship of the child to the employee, the child will be considered dependent upon the employee (the natural parent) only if he or she was either living with the employee or the employee was contributing to the child's support when either:

(a) A spouse's annuity begins; or

(b) The employee's annuity can be increased under the social security overall minimum provision; or

(c) The employee dies; or

(d) If the employee had a period of disability which lasted until he or she could have become entitled to an age or disability benefit under the Social Security Act (treating the employee's railroad compensation as wages under that Act), at the beginning of the period of disability or at the time the employee could have become entitled to the benefit.

**§ 222.52 When a legally adopted child is dependent—general.**

(a) *During employee's lifetime.* If the employee adopts a child before he or she could become entitled to a social security benefit (treating his or her railroad compensation as wages under that Act), the child is considered dependent upon the employee. If the employee adopts a child, unless the child is his natural child or stepchild, after he or she could become entitled to an old age or disability benefit under the Social Security Act (treating his or her railroad compensation as wages under that Act), the child is considered dependent on the employee only if the requirements of § 222.53 are met.

(b) *After employee's death.* If the surviving spouse of an employee adopted a child after the employee's death, the child is considered dependent on the employee if either—

(1) The employee began proceedings to adopt the child prior to his or her death, or the surviving spouse adopted the child within two years after the employee's death; and

(2) The child was living in the employee's household at the time of the employee's death; and

(3) The child was not receiving regular contributions from any person, including any public or private welfare organization, other than the employee or spouse at the time of the employee's death.

**§ 222.53 When a legally adopted child is dependent—child adopted after entitlement.**

A child who is not the employee's natural child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild, and who is adopted by the employee after the employee could become entitled to an old age or disability benefit under the Social Security Act (treating his or her railroad